

House Resolution

No. 41

Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Gordon, Lara, and
John A. Pérez)

August 20, 2012

House Resolution No. 41—Relative to Harvey Milk.

1 WHEREAS, Harvey Bernard Milk was born on May 22, 1930,
2 in Woodmere, New York. He was elected to the Board of
3 Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco in 1977. He
4 was the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in a
5 major city of the United States. He was assassinated in 1978 at
6 San Francisco’s City Hall by a political rival. Perhaps more than
7 any other modern figure, Harvey Milk’s life and political career
8 embody the rise of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
9 (LGBT) civil rights movement in California, across the nation,
10 and throughout the world; and

11 WHEREAS, As an openly gay leader, Harvey Milk encouraged
12 LGBT individuals to be visible in society. During the Gay Freedom
13 Day Parade of June 25, 1978, he told the crowd, “Gay people, we
14 will not win their rights by staying quietly in our closets”; and

15 WHEREAS, Harvey Milk’s legacy as a civil rights leader is still
16 felt today. Harvey Milk was named one of TIME Magazine’s most
17 influential people of the 20th century. Many institutions and
18 organizations are named for Harvey Milk, including the Harvey
19 Milk Recreational Arts Center, the Harvey Milk Civil Rights
20 Academy, the Harvey Milk Institute, the Eureka Valley/Harvey
21 Milk Memorial Branch Library, and the Harvey Milk

1 Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Democratic Club in San
2 Francisco; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2009, President Barack Obama posthumously
4 awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harvey Milk. The
5 State of California has designated May 22 annually as “Harvey
6 Milk Day,” and Harvey Milk has been inducted into the California
7 Hall of Fame; and

8 WHEREAS, The Harvey Milk Foundation, the International
9 Court Council, and the GLBT Historic Task Force of San Diego
10 have been leaders in raising awareness of the contributions of
11 Harvey Milk by, among other efforts, urging the Postmaster
12 General of the United States to issue a commemorative stamp
13 honoring Harvey Milk; and

14 WHEREAS, Harvey Milk’s life and social contributions have
15 left an indelible mark on the history of our nation and hold a special
16 meaning for the people of California; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
18 Assembly urges the Postmaster General of the United States to
19 issue a commemorative stamp honoring Harvey Milk and his work
20 in the LGBT movement for civil rights and equality; and be it
21 further

22 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
23 of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the
24 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
25 the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and
26 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
27 States, to the Postmaster General of the United States, and to the
28 author for appropriate distribution.

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